

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01820 201617Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /055 W

----- 126025

R 201405Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6288

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 1820

"LONDON PLS PASS TO BELFAST"

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI, UK (NI)

SUBJECT: SPLIT IN OFFICIAL SINN FEIN WIDENS

REF: DUBLIN 1736

1. THE SPLIT WHICH BECAME PUBLIC IN OFFICIAL IRA'S LAST CONVENTION (REFTEL) APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME PERMANENT AND TO INVOLVE A SUBSTANTIAL MINORITY IN PARTY. LEADER OF DISSIDENTS IN SEAMUS COSTELLO, A POPULAR FIGURE FROM COUNTY WICKLOW. HE HAS FOUNDED A NEW "IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY" (IRSP). IT CLAIMS TO HAVE ABOUT 300 MEMBERS DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, AND CLAIM IS FAIRLY CREDIBLE. SPLIT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN BUILDING UP FOR LAST YEAR OR TWO, AND MANY OF NEW PARTY MEMBERS HAD ALREADY CEASED ACTIVITY IN OFFICIAL SINN FEIN.

2. NEW PARTY'S BEST ACQUISITION IS BERNADETTE DEVLIN MCALISKEY, WHO STILL HAS MUCH PUBLICITY VALUE & SOME PRESUMED VOTING STRENGTH.

3. FROM NEW PARTY'S PRONOUNCEMENTS, ITS LINE APPEARS ABOUT HALF WAY BETWEEN THAT OF OFFICIALS AND PROVISIONALS. PARTY CLAIMS TO FOCUS BOTH ON THE "NATIONAL QUESTION" (IRISH UNIFICATION) AND ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01820 201617Z

THE "CLASS QUESTION" (WHICH OFFICIALS PREFER). LEADERS SAY THAT

OFFICIALS HAD ENTIRELY ABANDONED THE OLD NATIONAL GOALS. LEADERS OF NEW PARTY ALSO CLAIM THAT OFFICIAL SINN FEIN HAS GROWN UNDEMOCRATIC AND HAS REFUSED TO GIVE DISSIDENTS A HEARING.

3. WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY MILITARY WING (IRA) ATTACHED TO NEW ORGANIZATION, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT SOME IRA DISSIDENTS TO BE ATTRACTED TO NEW GROUP.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM PAST PERFORMANCE OF MOST OTHER REPUBLICAN-EXTREMIST GROUPS, ONE COULD NOT PREDICT BRIGHT POLITICAL FUTURE FOR NEW IRSP. IT DOES APPEAR, HOWEVER, TO BE MOUNTING AN EMBARRASSING CHALLENGE TO OFFICIAL SINN FEIN, WHICH IS ALREADY A VERY MINOR POLITICAL FORCE. WE SPECULATE THAT OFFICIALS' CLOSE COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS HAS HELPED PRODUCE THE SPLIT, SINCE MOST OF NEW PARTY'S CRITICISMS ARE DIRECTED AT KNOWN COMMUNIST OBJECTIVES.

5. FOR THE RECORD, NEW PARTY'S OFFICERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: CHAIRMAN, SEAMUS COSTELLO (WICKLOW); VICE CHAIRMAN, JOE SWEENEY, DERRY; SECRETARY, TERESA GALLAGHER, DUBLIN. COMMITTEE: SEAN FLYNN, MANUEL MCILROY, JOHN MCALEA AND CHARLIE CRAIG (BELFAST); SEAMUS O'KANE AND TERRY ROBESON (DERRY); BERNADETTE MCALISKEY (TYRONE); JOHNNY WHITE (DONEGAL); ANN WEBB AND MICK PLUNKETT (DUBLIN); JOHN LYNCH (CORK); STELLA MACKOWSKI (CLARE); JOE QUINN (LIMERICK) AND TONY QUINN (TIPPERARY).  
MOORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY SCHISMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974DUBLIN01820  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740371-0246  
**From:** DUBLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741220/aaaaaqos.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 74 DUBLIN 1736  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <28 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPLIT IN OFFICIAL SINN FEIN WIDENS  
**TAGS:** PINT, EI, UK, IRA, IRSP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005